



CITY NEWS

Police Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** Media Advisory ****

Dogs Play Critical Role in War on Drugs in Wichita

Rex and Elza aren't the most visible members of the Wichita Police Department, but they both play a critical role in curbing drug trafficking and busting violators in Wichita.

Since joining the Department Rex and Elza have been called out to incidents 430 times. As a result of their efforts, police were able to make arrests and take dangerous drugs off Wichita streets, including 1,735 grams of cocaine, 2,765 grams of methamphetamine and 700 pounds of marijuana.

Additionally, under Federal seizure laws, Rex and Elza's work allowed the Police Department to seize \$57,500 and 10 vehicles.

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When they aren't busy responding to drug calls, Rex and Elza spend many hours training with their handlers and doing community education and demonstrations.

The Wichita Police Department was able to acquire both dogs thanks to generous donations from Milk-Bone and Dillons. A third canine will soon join Rex and Elza, again funded by Milk-Bone and Dillons.

"Kelly," WPD's newest member, is also a Belgian Malinois. She is one year old and weighs about 40 lbs. "Kelly" will partner with Office Chad Cooper and will be assigned to the Patrol South Bureau. She will spend the next two months in Hutchinson receiving intensive training at Elliot Canine.

All three of the Police Department's drug dogs have been purchased with funding from Milk-Bone and Dillons, and have been trained by Elliot Canine.

For additional information on the Wichita Police Department's Canine Unit, please contact Detective Bryan Martin at 268-4171 or Officer Eddy Padron at 688-9500.

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Name: Rex

Age: 4

Handler: Detective Bryan Martin

Joined WPD: May 2003

Assigned: Special Investigations

Breed: Belgian Malinois

Specialties: Narcotic detection,
evidence recovery, handler
protection

Donated by: Milk-Bone and Dillons



Name: Elza aka Chika

Age: 3

Handler: Officer Eddy Padron

Joined WPD: July 2004

Assigned: Patrol North

Breed: Belgian Malinois

Specialties: Narcotic detection,
evidence recovery

Donated by: Milk-bone and Dillons